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TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

DR. McNEIL TELLS FIRST FULL STORY OF MUTINY AT SINGAPORE

Pacific Mail Surgeon Well-
Known in Honolulu Empha-
sizes Serious Situation

Many Honolulu people know Dr. Warren McNeil, the general surgeon of the Pacific Mail liner Nile. The Nile was impressed into service as a British transport and Dr. McNeil went along.

In London recently he told the "inside" story of the big Sepoy mutiny at Singapore. Hints of it had reached Honolulu by the cable but as Dr. McNeil tells it, the seriousness of this outbreak has never before reached the world.

A New York paper publishes the following from London:

LONDON, April 16.—Dyak headhunters are trailing the survivors of the Indian regiment which mutinied in Singapore last February.

Forty of these Sepoy mutineers were still at large in the dense jungles surrounding Singapore when the Dyaks were brought in to hunt them down, and since the headhunters are averse to bringing in their prisoners alive, it is not known how much the number has been reduced.

Dr. Warren McNeil, of San Francisco, surgeon on the Pacific Mail liner Nile, which is now in the service of the British admiralty as a transport, has arrived in London with the detailed story of the mutiny, his ship having reached Singapore while the trouble was at its height. The Nile had been sent to Singapore to take the regiment which mutinied to Hongkong, where it was to do garrison duty.

Dr. McNeil tells the following story of the mutiny:

"Our ship arrived at Singapore 24 hours late, thereby escaping the possibility of capture by the mutineers, as we would have been moored to the docks where the fighting began if we had been on time. Evidence procured from members of the mutinous regiment shows that the outbreak was timed for midnight of the day when it began. At that hour the Indians planned to rob the ammunition motor trucks lined up at the docks awaiting the arrival of transports, but an impatient mutineer attempted to steal a box of cartridges from a truck at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. He was detected by one of the white officers, who was shot down when he attempted to prevent the theft.

"Then the trouble broke like a thunderclap. The Sepoys, who were in formation ready to proceed to the docks, fell out and began to fire indiscriminately at every white person in sight. The Sikh members of the regiment remained loyal but, without their own officers to command them, did nothing to stop the mutineers.

"The Chinese and Malay inhabitants retired to their homes and the mutineers made no attempt to molest them, but began a systematic hunt for the whites. Among the first civilians to fall were Dr. Whittell, the best known surgeon in Singapore, and his wife, who were driving in their motor car. The warning to the whites spread rapidly, and many were saved who would certainly have been massacred if the outbreak had taken place at the hour planned by the leaders. Found 54 White Victims.

"The plan to seize the ammunition in the trucks was entirely successful and the mutineers were well supplied with cartridges. The 200 Sepoys concerned in the uprising soon scattered over the city, and out of the comparatively small white population, 54 victims fell before the fire of the fanatical mutineers on the first day. The second day, 1500 refugees, chiefly women and children, arrived on board our ship, and the scene was pathetic beyond my powers of description.

"Many of the women were weeping for murdered relatives, and others were nearly crazy with anxiety for their male relatives, who had pluckily remained behind to aid in hunting down the murderers.

"Two Japanese cruisers, the French cruiser Montcalm and the Russian converted cruiser Oreole landed Marines, and did good work in hunting the mutineers. The refugees were remarkably cool and seemed anxious to return to their homes, although many of the Sepoys were still at large, with rifles and plenty of shells in their possession. The celebrated botanical gardens of the town proved a favorite lurking place for them, and it was not safe to walk in the gardens for several weeks after conditions became normal in the city.

"Driven from the limits of Singapore, the mutineers took refuge in the thick, swampy jungles which surround the city, and the soldiers are finding it a difficult task to dislodge them.

"A favorite ruse of a mutineer when hard pressed by his pursuers is to bury himself in the swamp up to his neck, with his head hidden by the long grass. Several of these have been dislodged by firing the jungle. A mutineer emerging with his hands high in the air would be taken prisoner but the slightest sign of resistance meant instant death.

"When the Nile left on March 6, the white people in the city had high hopes that the headhunters soon would rid them of the last of the bloodthirsty Sepoys.

"The captured Sepoys were tried by court-martial, and I understand quite a number of them were shot, but only two were executed in public.

"I witnessed this execution, which undoubtedly was held in public to impress the native population, and I never have seen men go to death with greater bravery.

Witnessed Execution of Two.

"With another officer of the ship I made my way through the dense crowd of natives, who were silent and

motionless, but something in the air made us feel very uncomfortable until, above the sea of upturned black masklike faces, we saw six white soldiers standing with their rifles beside them on a slight elevation.

"Stakes had been provided for the condemned men, but they scorned the support of these, and also declined to be blindfolded. When the volley rang out, one of the mutineers pitched forward on his face without any further movement, while the second man merely fell back against a wall, and it was not until a second round had been fired that he crumpled up on the ground. The crowd remained as still as death, not even talking when its members turned away from the scene to return to their work.

"In their testimony all of the mutineers agreed that the cause of their dissatisfaction was the fact that they were about to be sent to Hongkong for garrison duty instead of being sent to the front, as they desired; but the white inhabitants of the town believe that it was a German plot, as most of the slain and captured mutineers had gold in their pockets, and one of their first acts was to release the German war prisoners, some of whom escaped. Among these was the first officer of the celebrated cruiser Emden.

Think Germans Hatched Plot.

"The theory of a plot is generally accepted, but it is a curious fact that most of the Indian regiments are intensely anxious to get to the fighting line, not through any patriotic devotion to the British Empire, for that hardly exists, but for the sheer love of fighting and a fanatical desire to kill infidels. We took the German and Austrian women on board our ship and they seemed thoroughly to enjoy their internment. Dances were given and they enjoyed their stay, apparently oblivious of the tragic occurrences on shore.

Dr. McNeil severed his connection with the Nile at Southampton, after an exciting voyage from the Orient, which included a passage of the Suez canal, with a barricaded bridge to protect the officers of the ship from Turkish snipers.

June 11 will be Hawaii Day at the Panama-Pacific exposition and plans for a night celebration in the lagoon back of the Hawaiian building are being made by Resident Commissioner H. P. Wood and J. Walter Doyle, publicity manager. Many of the residents of Honolulu who have outtrigger canoes probably will be asked to loan them for the occasion.

Wife—The road to a man's heart is through his stomach. Hubby—and a lot of you seem to think it should be laid with bricks.

CAPT. MAX SCHLEMMER WOULD BE WARDEN OF FAR LAYSAN ISLAND

Former "King" Sorry to Hear of Raids on Birds—Declares Graves on Island Not Those of Poachers But of Former Residents, One His Son—Will Appeal to Congressmen

Not graves dug by poachers, but by

Capt. Max Schlemmer in times remote. The mystery of the three graves on Laysan Island found by the crew of the Thetis upon its spring cruise from March 16 to April 10, is explained by Capt. Max Schlemmer, formerly "king of Laysan," now janitor of the Odd Fellows' hall.

"If the cutter boys did not see those graves last September it was because they did not happen on that exact spot. I dug those graves and put headstones there, myself."

Upon being asked if the graves were those of bird poachers the old captain indignantly replied:

"I should say not. The grave with the fence around it mentioned in the report is that of Carsten, who died when on the island alone in 1894. The second grave is that of my own son, who died in 1896, while the third is the grave of a Japanese woman who died at childbirth on the island in 1905."

To prove his contention Schlemmer offers to describe the headstones which he declares he dug from the conglomerate sea floor. One stone has a hole through it. The fence he made from shack boards.

Schlemmer has decided to appeal to the congressmen for the position of bird warden in the leeward islands. The matter has been in the hands of Hawaii's delegate for some time, but nothing has been done with it so far, he says. The last trip of the Thetis resulted in the findings that poachers had slain upwards of 200,000 birds on Laysan some time between the fall cruise last September and the spring cruise last month.

"I am sorry to hear of the new raid of the poachers," says the old captain. "The only way to guard against them is to keep a man down there. My property on Laysan is practically a total loss to me. I don't want anything but a square deal and it seems to me the only fair thing I could get is a livelihood out of the protection I could give the birds."

The story of the King of Laysan Island is an old one to Honolulu readers. How the Japanese bird poachers, numbering 74, were captured by the Thetis crew a few years ago has been discussed so much that the details are familiar to all. Schlemmer, subleased the islands of Laysan and Lisiansky to Japanese bird men, but declares the transaction took place before the prohibitory laws were passed in Roosevelt's administration. Governor Frear, says Schlemmer, de-

manded the territorial lease, but the island king refused to give it up and still has it in his possession.

After the trouble was settled in regard to the poachers Schlemmer wrote to Rear-Admiral Thomas, commanding the Pacific fleet, with whom he was on intimate terms, asking about the possibility of securing the station of bird warden for the United States government. The admiral referred the matter to Governor Pinkham. The governor in turn said the creating of the position would have to go through Congress.

Thus armed with recommendations from Admiral Thomas, Governor Pinkham and Professor Bryan of the College of Hawaii, who has always been a friend of the birds, Schlemmer took the matter up with Prince Kuhio before the latter departed for the last session of Congress. He heard nothing about his petition either directly or indirectly until Prince Kuhio returned to Hawaii with the congressional party two weeks ago. Allowing time for the delegate to get readjusted to home life again, says Schlemmer, he called upon the Prince to learn how his bird warden job was materializing.

"Why, it will have to go through Congress," Schlemmer reports. Hawaii's delegate as saying, after which he was dismissed.

"I know it has to go through Congress, what did I go to Kuhio for but to get it through," says the old captain, who now feels he has been treated unjustly.

As the matter stands now Schlemmer intends to appeal directly to the congressmen while they are in Honolulu. The recent raid of the poachers makes his petition for the wardenship timely.

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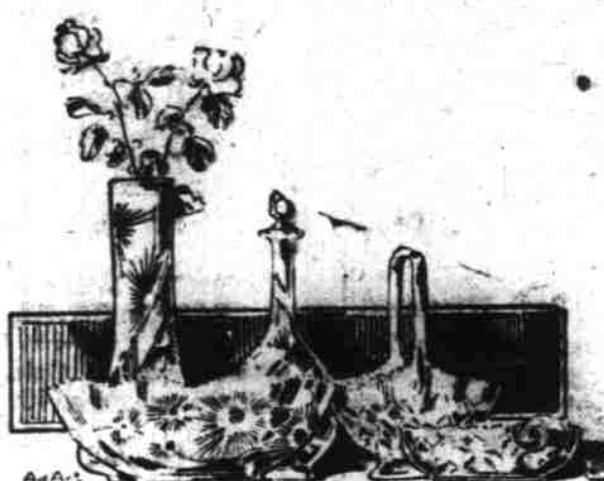
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